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We claim:

1. A method of manufacturing an absorbent and time release material comprising the steps of:

5 providing a pulp from a fibrous material;
forming said pulp into a block;
drying said block in a controlled atmosphere;
impregnating said dried block with a preselected substance;
grinding said impregnated block to form a powdered material.

10 2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said pulp comprises cloth fibers.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein said pulp comprises cellulose fibers.

15 4. A method according to claim 3, wherein said cellulose fibers are dried paper pulp.

5. A method according to claim 3, wherein said cellulose fibers are short strand wood fibers.

20 6. A method according to claim 3, wherein said cellulose fibers are long strand wood fibers.

7. A method according to claim 3, wherein said cellulose fibers are wood fibers from the processing of wood fiber fluff.

25 8. A method according to claim 1, wherein said substance is selected from the group comprising paraffin wax, beeswax, wax derived from animal products and wax derived from vegetable products.

9. A method according to claim 1, wherein said substance is selected from the group comprising petroleum wax, motor oil and grease.

30 10. A method according to claim 1, wherein said pulp includes powdered material selected from one or more of the following waste material: railway ties, telephone poles, creosote, powdered coal, calcium oxalate-solids, krofta fines, or bark.

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11. An absorbent and time release material produced according to the method of claim 1.
12. A material according to claim 11 used for suppressing fires.
- 5 13. A material according to claim 11 used for land reclamation.
14. A material according to claim 11 used for soil enhancement.
15. A material according to claim 11 used as a traction agent.
- 10 16. A material according to claim 11 used to recover petroleum products resulting from a spill.
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